

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 2887.0219-01

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
TAKAHIRO IKEDA ET AL. )  
Application No.: Unknown ) Prior Group Art Unit: 2863  
Filed: March 24, 2004 ) Prior Examiner: A. Bhat  
For: GRAPHIC CONTOUR ) Divisional Application of U.S. Patent  
EXTRACTING METHOD, ) Application Serial No. 10/188,889, filed  
PATTERN INSPECTING ) July 5, 2002  
METHOD, PROGRAM AND )  
PATTERN INSPECTING SYSTEM )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the above-identified divisional application.

Copies of the listed documents were previously submitted by applicants or cited by the Examiner in a prior application Serial No. 10/188,889, filed July 5, 2002, upon which applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

Applicants note that U.S. Patent No. 6,480,807 listed on the attached Form PTO 1449, was previously cited in the parent application as U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/665,942.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: 3/24/04

By:   
Richard V. Burgujian  
Reg. No. 31,744

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

|                  |                |              |         |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|---------|
| Atty. Docket No. | 2887.0219-01   | Appln. No.   | Unknown |
| Applicant        | Ikeda et al.   |              |         |
| Filing Date      | March 24, 2004 | Prior Group: | 2863    |

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Issue Date | Name              | Class | Sub Class | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
|                   | 6,480,807       | 11/12/02   | Miyano            |       |           |                            |
|                   | 6,335,985       | 1/2002     | Sambonsugi et al. |       |           |                            |
|                   | 6,263,089       | 7/2001     | Otsuka et al.     |       |           |                            |
|                   | 6,173,070       | 1/2001     | Michael et al.    |       |           |                            |
|                   | 5,572,602       | 11/1996    | Naoi et al.       |       |           |                            |
|                   | 5,065,344       | 11/1991    | Kishimoto et al.  |       |           |                            |
|                   | 4,804,831       | 2/1989     | Baba et al.       |       |           |                            |
|                   |                 |            |                   |       |           |                            |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  | Document Number | Publication Date | Country | Class | Sub Class | Translation Yes or No |
|--|-----------------|------------------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------------------|
|  | 2001-91231      | 4/6/01           | Japan   |       |           |                       |
|  | 7-27548         | 1/27/95          | Japan   |       |           |                       |
|  |                 |                  |         |       |           |                       |

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| Examiner | Date Considered |
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\*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.